

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/072,109

Examiner

Ronald Baum

Applicant(s)

TANAKA ET AL.

Art Unit

2136

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/4/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3 and 5-14.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

NASSER MOAZZAMI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1-3,5-14 are allowed over prior art.
2. This action is in reply to applicant's correspondence of 04 December 2006.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable claimed subject matter.
4. As per claims 1,9,10,12-14 generally, prior art of record, DeMello et al, U.S. Patent 6,891,953 B1, fails to teach alone, or in combination, other than via hindsight, at the time of the invention, the features as discussed and remarked upon in the response of 12/04/2006 to office action of 7/27/2006.

Specifically, (as per claim 1, for example) prior art dealing with DRM aspects of digital content distribution insofar as various licensing mechanisms and secure packaging (i.e., cryptographic services such as encryption/decryption), is generally known to exist per se, (i.e., Lee, J., et al, 'A DRM Framework for Distributing Digital Contents through the Internet', ETRI Journal, Vol. 25, No. 6, 12/2003, pages 423-436, <http://etrij.etri.re.kr/Cyber/servlet/GetFile?fileid=SPF;1070442843432>). Nowhere in the prior art is found collectively the *italicized* claim elements (i.e., an architecture that specifically deals with the *licensing* identification *storage location* information associated with encrypted digital content, whereas the *determination of the licensing and terminal/network node* information location is subsequently used to associate a *content decryption key hierarchy* (i.e., master/root/derived key) used for the content decryption), at the time of the invention; serving to patently distinguish the invention from said prior art;

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“An information processing apparatus for allowing *usage of content* by *requiring a license* for using said content, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a content storage unit operable to store

license-identification information for

specifying said license for using said content,

encrypted data of said content and

key information required for

decrypting said encrypted data of said content;

a license storage unit operable to store

said *license* for using said content, including

content-specifying information for specifying

said content, and

terminal-identification information which identifies

the information processing apparatus

the use of which is allowed by said license;

a *judgment unit* operable *to determine* whether

said *license* for using said content

has been stored in

said license storage unit;

a decryption unit operable to *decrypt*

said encrypted data of said content *if*

said license for using said content

has been stored in
said license storage unit;
a device-node-key storage unit operable to store a device node key
which is *assigned*
the information processing apparatus from
the license server when registering,
wherein said key information includes
an EKB (Enabling Key Block); and
said decryption unit is operable
to *decrypt*
said EKB (Enabling Key Block) using
said device node key and
said terminal-identification information
to obtain a root key, and
to *decrypt*
said *data* of said content using
said *root key*.”.

5. Dependent claims 2,3,5-8 and 11 are allowable by virtue of their dependencies.

Conclusion

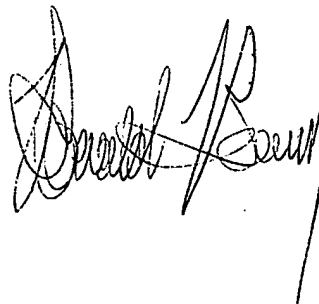
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from examiner should be directed to Ronald Baum, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3861, and whose unofficial Fax number is (571) 273-3861 and unofficial email is Ronald.baum@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nasser Moazzami, can be reached at (571) 272-4195. The Fax number for the organization where this application is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

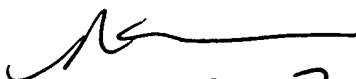
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. For more information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ronald Baum

Patent Examiner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald Baum', with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

NASSER MOAZZAMI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'N' or 'M' followed by a horizontal line.

2,12,07